

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~An image file for storing a digital image and information related to the digital image,~~ A computer readable medium encoded with an image file for storing a digital image and information related to the digital image, including:

a) digital image data;

b) a user identifier that identifies a particular user; and

c) data representing affective information which relates to the feelings or emotions of the particular user identified by the user identifier toward the digital image stored in the image file, wherein the affective information includes a quantitative value which is an importance rating of the digital image to the particular user;

wherein the quantitative value of the affective information can be utilized to selectively retrieve the digital image.

2. (Currently Amended) The ~~image file~~ computer readable medium of claim 1 wherein the affective information further specifies the time or period within a range of times that the affective information was produced.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) The ~~image file~~ computer readable medium of claim 1 wherein the image file further includes information related to the capture device used to capture the digital image.

5. (Currently Amended) The ~~image file~~ computer readable medium of claim 1 wherein the image data is a JPEG compressed image data.

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~image file~~ computer readable medium of claim 1 wherein the digital image file includes user identifiers for a plurality of particular users and a corresponding plurality of quantitative values,

where each quantitative value is an importance rating of the digital image for the associated particular user.

7. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a retrieval scheme for stored digital images, wherein each digital image is stored using the computer readable medium ~~a digital image file that corresponds to the image file~~ of claim 6, comprising the steps of:

- a) a retrieval user providing a user identifier;
- b) using the user identifier provided by the retrieval user to select, from the plurality of affective information, the particular affective information associated with the retrieval user; and
- c) using the affective information to facilitate image retrieval.

8. (Cancelled).

9. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the affective information is used to determine the order of presentation of retrieved images.

10. (Currently Amended) The ~~image file~~ computer readable storage medium of claim 1 wherein the importance rating is provided by monitoring the facial expression of the user.

11. (Currently Amended) The ~~image file~~ computer readable storage medium of claim 1 wherein the importance rating is provided by monitoring the physiology of the user.

12. (Currently Amended) The ~~image file~~ computer readable storage medium of claim 1 wherein the importance rating is provided by a user interface which enables the user to indicate important images.

13 – 26 (Cancelled).

27. (Currently Amended) The ~~image file~~ computer readable storage medium of claim 1 wherein the quantitative value is one number selected from a range of possible numbers.

28. (Cancelled).

29. (Currently Amended) ~~A collection of image files wherein each stores a different digital image and information related to such digital images, each image file~~ A computer readable medium encoded with a collection of image files wherein each stores a different digital image and information related to such digital images, each image file including:

- a) digital image data;
- b) a user identifier that identifies a particular user; and
- c) data representing affective information which relates to the feelings or emotions of the particular user identified by the user identifier toward the digital image stored in the image file, wherein the affective information includes a quantitative value which is an importance rating of the digital image to the particular user;

wherein the quantitative value of the affective information can be used to selectively retrieve the digital image.

30. (Currently Amended) The ~~image file~~ computer readable medium of claim 1, wherein the image file is a JPEG 2000 image file.

31. (Currently Amended) The ~~image file~~ computer readable medium of claim 1, wherein the image file is a TIFF image file.

32. (Currently Amended) The ~~image file~~ computer readable medium of claim 1, wherein the image file is a EXIF image file.

33. (Currently Amended) The ~~image file~~ computer readable medium of claim 32, wherein the affective information is stored using a TIFF IFD.

34. (Currently Amended) ~~The image file of claim 33, A~~
computer readable medium encoded with an image file for storing a digital image
and information related to the digital image, including:

- a) digital image data;
- b) a user identifier that identifies a particular user; and
- c) data representing affective information which relates to the
feelings or emotions of the particular user identified by the user identifier toward
the digital image stored in the image file, wherein the affective information
includes a quantitative value which is an importance rating of the digital image;
wherein the image file is a EXIF image file;
wherein the affective information is stored using a TIFF IFD; and
wherein the TIFF IFD also stores the user identifier;

35. (Currently Amended) ~~The image file~~ computer readable
medium of claim 34, wherein the user identifier has a personal identification code.

36. (Currently Amended) ~~The image file~~ computer readable
medium of claim 35, wherein the personal identification code is a globally unique
ID.

37. (Cancelled)